

## PATENT

## C. REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-14, and 16-20 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8, and 14 have been amended and claims 2, 9, and 15 have been cancelled. No claims have been added in this Response.

Drawings

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's acceptance of Applicants' formal drawings.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 2, 6, 7, 9, 11-13, 15, 19, and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 8, and 14 by adding limitations originally found in claims 2, 9, and 15, respectively, and claims 2, 9, and 15 have been cancelled. Therefore, as amended, each of the independent claims include limitations that were deemed allowable by the Examiner.

Claims 3-7 each depend, directly or indirectly, on amended independent claim 1 and, therefore, are each allowable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 1 is allowable, as indicated in the Office Action. Likewise, claims 10-13 each depend, directly or indirectly, on amended independent claim 8 and, therefore, are each allowable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 8

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is allowable, as indicated in the Office Action. In addition, claims 16-20 each depend, directly or indirectly, on amended independent claim 14 and, therefore, are each allowable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 14 is allowable, as indicated in the Office Action.

Prior Art Rejections

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10, 14 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,748,884 to Royce et al. (hereinafter "Royce"). Applicants respectfully assert that, in light of Applicants' amendments to the independent claims, the rejections of claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10, 14 and 16-18 is moot, as the amended independent claims include limitations deemed allowable in the Office Action.

Applicants disagree that originally filed claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10, 14 and 16-18 are anticipated by Royce. However, in order to expedite Applicants' receipt of a Notice of Allowance for this Application, Applicants have elected to incorporate limitations deemed allowable by the Examiner into Applicants' independent claims.

Conclusion

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that the remaining claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request an early allowance of such claims.

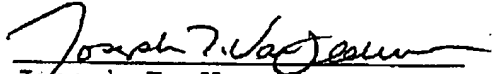
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the Applicants' attorney listed below if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful

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in resolving any remaining questions or issues related to this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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